

February 20, 2007

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and the implementing procedures at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act", the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and exemption from further environmental review.

Potable Water System Improvements
for the
Town of Gramercy, St. James Parish, Louisiana

EPA Project Number: XP-97695601

Estimated Total EPA Share: \$ 723,200
Estimated Local Share: \$ 595,523

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town of Gramercy, located in St. James Parish, between Baton Rouge and New Orleans has a population of approximately 3,165 people. The Town is proposing to improve its drinking water system by rehabilitating its 300,000 gallon elevated storage tank, rehabilitating its 300,000 gallon ground storage tank and constructing a new ground storage tank using special Congressional appropriation funds. The project will also upgrade clarifiers, the chlorine dioxide system, the generator, the sludge pit pumps, the high service pump, the check valve for filter transfer pump and the main electrical control panel. Gramercy is having difficulty meeting Safe Drinking Water Act standards and is currently in violation of its permit limits for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s). The upgrade to this facility will assist in attaining the proper TTHMs and HAA5s limits and will prevent major interruption to drinking water service.

The funding recipient will use the EPA funds along with local monies to finance the proposed construction project. The funding recipient has requested that the project be granted a Categorical Exclusion, and be excluded from the full environmental review and assessment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

The proposed project qualifies for a CE. The project is a small-scale, routine action solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of an existing facility and functional replacement of existing equipment. The proposed action will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with any other Federal, state, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and may be exempted from environmental review under NEPA. No adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on cultural resources, endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, floodplain, wetlands, prime farmlands or aquifer recharge zones were identified. There are no Environmental Justice concerns with the proposed project since all residents in the area will benefit equally from the infrastructure improvements.

APPROVAL

The request for the issuance of a CE is approved. This approval will be revoked if at any time the project no longer meets the eligibility for a CE, new evidence determines that significant local or environmental issues exist, or that Federal, state, local or tribal laws are being or may be violated by implementation of the project.

Responsible Official,

John Blevins
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

cc: Herman Bourgeois, Mayor
Town of Gramercy

Michael McDaniel, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality